

**SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING PROGRAM**

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Public Law Chapter 213-2000-H 7838-A.

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in conjunction with Saving Sight Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation, will establish a program to screen children's vision for blindness and other visual disorders.

III. PROCEDURES:

1. Utilizing photoscreening devices, Saving Sight Rhode Island will target all preschool children throughout the state for vision screening.
 - a. DHS/ORS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will reimburse Saving Sight Rhode Island for each child screened. The additional expenses will be funded by the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation and Saving Sight Rhode Island.
 - b. ORS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will bill Medicaid/Rite Care for those children who are eligible.
 - c. Screening will be conducted in day care centers, nursery schools, Head Start, Early Intervention Programs, Child Outreach Programs, private day care homes and in community locations for those children not involved in any day care or formal program.
 - d. School-age children may be screened if they have been deemed as unscreenable by the local education authority's standard vision screening methods, such as children who are non-verbal.
 - e. Ophthalmologic residents at Brown Medical School will be used for photo interpretation.
 - f. Screeners will be fully trained and certified in the use of the photoscreening device by Prevent Blindness America and the Vanderbilt Hospital.
 - g. If a problem is detected by the photo interpretation, the family will be given a list of R. I. optometrists and ophthalmologists who have agreed to participate in the program

and provide reports of examination results. Information on obtaining eye examinations free of charge for those without medical coverage will be provided.

- h. If a family is determined needy by an application process at Saving Sight Rhode Island, and eyeglasses are recommended but not covered by medical insurance, they will be provided by the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation, Saving Sight Rhode Island, or Vision USA.
- 2. Saving Sight Rhode Island will utilize the Vanderbilt Data Base and Tracking System to insure proper reporting and documentation of follow-up and results. A comprehensive report of statistics and results of this project will be written at the completion of the state fiscal year in order to determine the continuing effectiveness of the project, and to make future programmatic recommendations.